

BILL NO. BL2018-1314 (COOPER) – This ordinance, as substituted, would establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to identify government inefficiencies.

Previously, Substitute Ordinance No. BL2018-1184 approved the Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 and, by amendment, authorized the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Commission by September 30, 2018. The goals of the Blue Ribbon Commission would be to find budgetary cost savings.

This ordinance would revise various provisions of the Blue Ribbon committee as originally established under Substitute BL2018-1184 and establish a twelve (12) member Blue Ribbon Commission (the Commission). There would be ten (10) voting members, with five (5) appointed by the Mayor per RS2018-1411, and three (3) designated from the membership of the Council, including the Vice Mayor or a designee, the Budget and Finance Committee chair, and a councilmember chosen by the Vice Mayor. Two additional members would be appointed by the Vice Mayor in consultation with the chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee, either from the membership of the Council or individuals from the business or labor communities with relevant experience. Subject to the reauthorization of the Commission, members who are not member of Council would serve for a term of three (3) years. Councilmembers would be appointed for a one (1) year term.

Administrative support would be provided by members of the Department of Finance Mayor's Office and any other department designated by the Mayor. Legal support would be provided by the Department of Law.

The Commission would be required to propose and vote on a listing of budget savings proposals with a ranking based upon value and feasibility and indicating "recommended," "not recommended" or "neutral" for each proposal. The Commission would submit a report detailing potential budget savings proposals, cost avoidance proposals, and revenue generation proposals to the Mayor and Council by April 1 of each year. The Commission could submit an interim report whenever it has reason to believe three million dollars (\$3,000,000) or more in savings may be obtained by a change in budget practice. The Commission would be available to the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss the Commission's progress. The Commission could not consider any measures pertaining to employee benefits that are otherwise under the purview of the Study and Formulating Committee under Section 13.06 of the Metro Charter.

The Commission could request funding and/or employment of a consultant, outside expert, or other such party if deemed necessary and useful for the completion of the Commission's objectives. This request would be made to the Council's Budget and Finance Committee and would require an appropriation funded by a vote of the full Council by resolution receiving twenty-one affirmative votes.

The Commission would be subject to annual reauthorization in the operating budget ordinance for the Metro Government. Failure to re-authorize the Commission would result in termination of the Commission.

A minor housekeeping amendment is anticipated from the sponsor.

Fiscal Note: The Blue Ribbon Commission as proposed by this ordinance was authorized by amendment to the approved Substitute FY19 Operational Budget. However, there were no funds appropriated for the operations of this Commission.

The proposed ordinance would authorize the Commission to request funding and/or employment of a consultant, outside expert, or other party, which would require a separate appropriation by the Metro Council. No appropriation is included in this ordinance and any subsequent appropriation would be evaluated at such time it is proposed.

The targeted goal of this Commission is to achieve cost savings of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) in annual savings. However, there is no guarantee of any particular amount of savings resulting from the activities of this Commission.